



*Letter*

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H E A L T H   A N D   S A N I T A R Y   A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

A N N U A L   R E P O R T

1 9 5 7



Municipal Buildings,  
243, Queen Street,  
WITHERNSEA.  
East Yorkshire.

F.R. Cripps, M.D.,D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health.



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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of Withernsea Urban District for 1957.

### Vital Statistics.

The total population of Withernsea, including members of the Armed Forces, is estimated to be 4,980, at mid year 1957. This figure is the same as last year, and shows little variation since 1952.

### Births and Birth Rate.

35 male and 36 female births were registered during the year; a total of 71 live births, giving a birth rate of 14.25 per 1,000 population. Last year 72 live births were registered and the birth rate was 14.4.

When the birth rate is corrected by the Area Comparability Figure, (a figure which makes allowance for the age groups which predominate in the District, as disclosed by the Census), which this year is 1.09 for the Birth Rate, the rate is increased to 15.5 per 1,000 population, showing that there are more people over the 35/45 age group than the average.

In addition to the 71 live births there were 2 still-births, both legitimate.

Of the 71 live births recorded, 3 were illegitimate, giving an Illegitimate Rate of 4.2% of the total live births, which is about average for the County.

### Deaths and Death Rate.

During the year 76 residents died, 5 more than the number of births, which in itself is in indication of the higher than average age groups making up the population. Of these, 39 males and 37 females, and includes all residents who died away from home, e.g. in hospital.

The Death Rate is 15.26 per 1,000 population, but again when corrected the Area Comparability Figure of 0.83 for the Urban District, reduces the rate to 12.66, which it is presumed it would have been if there had not been a larger proportion of old retired people than is usually found throughout the Country.

Below is a table showing the number of deaths occurring in each quarter of the year. This year the greatest proportion of the deaths occurred in the January/March quarter; last year it was the October/December quarter which proved most fatal.

	<u>1st Quarter</u> Jan/Mar.	<u>2nd Quarter</u> April/June	<u>3rd Quarter</u> July/Sept	<u>4th Quarter</u> Oct/Dec	<u>Total</u>
Male	12	12	7	8	39
Female	14	5	10	8	37
Totals	26	17	17	16	76

Of the 39 male deaths 26; 66%, or 2 in every 3 deaths were over 65, and 17, or 43.5% were over 75. Last year nearly 33% were over 75 at death.

Female deaths were 37, and 26 of these, or 70%, compared with 92% last year, were over 65, and 50% lived to 75 years or more.

The Death Rate of 15.26 per 1,000 population is slightly higher than last year's; 15 per 1,000; but 3.2 per 1,000 lower than the year before.

Of the 76 deaths, 25 were due to Heart and Circulatory Disease, including 5 from Cerebral Haemorrhage; and 18 were due to Cancer.





Of the 25 deaths from Heart and Circulatory Disease, 8, or about  $\frac{1}{3}$ , died from Coronary Thrombosis and another  $\frac{1}{3}$ , 3 males and 7 females died from Valvular Heart Disease; 5, 2 males and 3 females, died from Cerebral Haemorrhage. Hypertension caused one death, as in last year.

Cancer 11 males and 7 females died from Cancer.

The site of the disease was as follows:-

	Stomach	Lungs	Uterus	Other Sites.
Males	2	5	-	4
Females	2	1	1	3

As in last year's report males suffered much more than females from Cancer of the Lungs.

Influenza, Pneumonia and Bronchitis, caused 1, 1 and 2 deaths respectively.

The main causes of death are as for the last few years, Heart Disease, Cancer and Cerebral Haemorrhage.

The emphasis this year is the continued high percentage of deaths from Coronary Thrombosis and the increase in the deaths from Cancer of the Lung in males. Coronary Thrombosis, due to hardening and narrowing of the arteries of the heart is presumed due to excessive consumption of animal fats.

#### Maternal Mortality.

There was one death from Abortion during the year.

#### Infectious Disease Deaths.

There were no deaths from Tuberculosis or notifiable Infectious Disease, but one death from a parasitic virus disease.

#### Infant Mortality.

##### (a) Still Births.

There were 2 Still-Births, both legitimate, in addition to the 71 live births.

The Still Birth Rate is 27.4 per 1,000 total births and 0.4 per 1,000 population. Last year there was only 1 still birth and the rates were 13.7 and 0.2 respectively.

##### (b) Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.

3 infants, 2 males and 1 female, died in their first year, giving an Infant Mortality Rate of 42.2 per 1,000 live births.

The rate last year (1956) was 13.9 and in 1955 was 47. The actual differences being 1 death less in 1956.

All the infants were legitimate and 2 of the 3 deaths occurred within the first few months.

The causes of death were:- 1 from Broncho-Pneumonia; 1 from Pre-Maturity and one from birth injury.



<u>Year</u>	<u>Still-Births</u>		<u>Deaths of</u> <u>Infants under One Year</u>		<u>Infant Mortality</u> <u>per 1,000</u> <u>births</u>
	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	<u>Illegitimate</u>	
1945/49	11	-	16	1	44.0
1950/54	10	-	9	-	26.5
1955/56	4	-	4	-	30.5
1957.	2	-	3	-	42.0

The Infant Mortality Rate is held to be one of the most reliable guides we have as to the social and sanitary conditions of a country but in a small community as ours one extra death could make a very wide upward swing in the rate and give an untrue picture in comparing one year with another.

The following table shows the figures for the various causes of deaths for 1957 and a comparison with 1956, 1955 and 1954.

<u>Causes of death</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>			<u>1956</u>	<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>
Tuberculosis - Lungs	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis - Other Forms	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infectious Disease	1	-	-	-	-	1
Cancer - Stomach	2	2	4	3	1	0
Cancer - Lungs	5	1	6	3	3	4
Cancer - Breast	-	-	-	1	3	-
Cancer - Uterus	-	1	1	1	2	-
Cancer - Other Sites	4	3	7	7	6	4
Diseases of the Blood	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage	2	3	5	13	20	9
Heart Disease (Code 18-20)	8	10	18	18	19	11
Hypertension (Code 19)	1	-	1	1	-	-
Circulatory Disease (Code 21)	1	-	1	5	4	6
Pneumonia	1	-	1	2	3	1
Bronchitis	2	-	2	3	2	1
Kidney Disease	1	1	2	-	1	1
Prostate Disease	1	-	1	1	-	1
Other Diseases	9	14	23	11	23	26
Motor Accidents	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other Accidents	-	-	-	2	3	-
Suicide	-	1	1	-	-	-

#### Comparison with the causes of death in previous years

##### Tuberculosis

Since 1956 there have been no deaths from Tuberculosis.

##### Cancer

The total number of deaths from Cancer has remained mainly stationary since 1955 but Cancer of the Lung has doubled its numbers.

##### Cerebral Haemorrhage

Deaths from stroke are fewer than in the past few years.

##### Heart Disease

Continues as the chief cause of death. About one in every 4 deaths is due to some form of Heart or Circulatory Disease, as in last year, and the actual cause is usually Coronary Thrombosis or Valvular Disease.

##### Other Causes

Deaths from other causes are about the same as the two proceeding years, including accidents.





## Causes of Death in the various Age Groups

### Cancer

There were 2 deaths in the age group 44/54; 3 in the age group 55/64; 6 in the age group 65/74; 4 in the age group 75/84 and 1 over 85. The large majority of the deaths from Cancer this year are in the age group 65/84.

### Heart Disease

1 death occurred at 44; 2 in the age group 55/64; 11 in the age group 65/74 and 4 in the age group 75/85. Here again the majority of deaths occurred in the age group 65/74.

### Senility and Senile Arteriosclerosis, etc.

Of the 20 deaths notified 10 were over 85 and all were over 75.

## Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Disease.

The following is a summary of the Notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year 1957.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Jan/March</u>		<u>Apr/June</u>		<u>July/Sept</u>		<u>Oct/Dec</u>		<u>Totals</u>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	1957	1956
Measles	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	4	103
Whooping Cough	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	3	5	3
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Lungs	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	3	2
Tuberculosis - Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid - Enteric	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3	-
Food Poisoning - Salmonella	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Measles

3 cases occurred in one family, all under 6 years, in September.  
1 other case occurred in May.

### Whooping Cough

2 cases occurred, in one family, of Infant-School age.

### Scarlet Fever

No notifications recorded.

### Diphtheria

No notifications since 1944.

### Acute Poliomyelitis

No notifications.

### Tuberculosis

3 new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered; one aged 16, one 18 and one 25. Compared with 2 cases last year in the 45/64 and 25/44 age groups.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis is now available to all susceptible children and young adults.

No deaths occurred in either Pulmonary or Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.



NEW CASESDEATHS

<u>Age Groups</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
0 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The above table summarises the notifications and death in the age groups.

The number of cases remaining on the Register in the Urban District at 31st December, 1957 was :-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	<u>1956</u>	
Males	19	1	18(P)	1(NP)
Females	26	4	26(P)	4(NP)

Food Poisoning

There have been no notified cases.

Infectious Diseases

Some Infectious Diseases which occur today were also known in ancient times and glimmerings of their causes but of course the treatment was very different of that of today. Primitive preventative measures included the importation of storks to the Nile to eat up the snails which the Egyptians rightly suspected had something to do with tropical disease. The Babylonians only drank boiled water, and knew insects in swampy land caused disease. The Jews of the Old Testament knew rats spread plague. The Romans recognised the importance of hygiene, i.e. making aqueducts to bring water to their great Towns and instituted Public Health Inspectors who enjoyed great prestige. When the Greek and Roman civilisations collapsed, all their scientific knowledge was lost and the world went back to superstition and witchcraft. Until well into the eighteen/Century plague was recurrent in Europe, the connection between rats and plague being only vaguely understood. The Great Plague killed off 70,000 citizens of London but the Great Fire which followed swept away the old wooden houses which were rat infested and so indirectly cleared the plague.

In 1667 plague struck England for the last time. At that time all disease was due to the four 'Humours'; blood, Phlegm, black bile and yellow bile, as blood was the most easily accessible copious amounts of blood were tapped off on the slightest pretext. It was not until the end of the eighteenth Century, however, that the world recovered from the fall of the Romans, and knowledge about disease became better known, but from then the spread of knowledge about disease was increasingly rapid. Scurvy in the Navy was abolished by the issue of lime juice, the first vitamin deficiency disease to be officially recognised. From another angle came Dr. Edward Jenner's discovery of the connection between cow-pox and small-pox. Why did dairy-maids never get small-pox? From such a small query arose the beginning of scientific prevention of infectious disease which has saved millions of lives.

Small-Pox

Small-pox is practically extinct in Great Britain thanks to the safe and efficacious vaccine and thus was the first of other safe and efficacious vaccines and immunisations to follow, to the latest Poliomyelitis Vaccine. Recognition of the role of Bacteria in the causation of disease; preventative measures, including the manufacture of the appropriate vaccine, has virtually abolished the incident of many disease previously feared, e.g. Cholera, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Paratyphoid.





## Diphtheria.

The national average of Diphtheria notifications between 1933 and 1942 was still as high as 55,000. But after the introduction of mass immunisation against Diphtheria the notifications had fallen to under 2,000 in 1949. What has been achieved and proved beyond doubt in the case of Diphtheria can also be achieved in the case of Poliomyelitis. But the immunisations against these disease must be continued, otherwise a race of children will grow up without protection and fall victims to the disease germs who still remain always alive and ready to attach those who have no protective immunity.

In the years 1918-43, Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever and Measles were the Disease most notified.

The following table shows the changes in incidence since then:-

	<u>Tuberculosis</u>		<u>Diphtheria</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>
	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>			
1918 - 25	99	9	47	40	-
1926 - 30	75	15	12	39	3 (1927)
1931 - 35	38	7	30	52	1 (1932)
1936 - 40	27	7	11	23	-
1941 - 45	36	3	8	32	-
			(Nil since 1944)		
1946 - 50	34	1	-	8	3 (1946)
1951 - 55	13	-	-	17	5 (1955)
1956 - 57	5	-	-	1	-

## Tuberculosis.

After the discovery that tuberculosis was caused by a germ, the Tubercle bacillus, positive measures were taken to try and stop the spread of this most infectious and dangerous disease, which, known as Consumption for a hundred years was the cause of thousands of deaths and worse, social ostracism of the sufferers. Special hospitals were built and energetic measures taken to prevent the spread.

In spite of all these measures tuberculosis continued to be a common disease. During the last few years, however, antibiotic and chemotherapeutic drugs have been at last discovered, which each have a specific action against the tubercle bacillus without harming the body. Used in combination, they usually have a dramatic action in checking the disease and often effect a cure when used early. All cases benefit, but in some the treatment has to be continued for long periods.

Tuberculosis, however, still causes 75% of deaths from infectious and parasite diseases from 15 and over. Although the death rate from tuberculosis is only 1/3 of what it was before the discovery of these antibiotic and chemotherapeutic drugs, no such great reduction has occurred in the number of new cases reported.

This may be due to the far greater care now being taken to find cases by Mass X Ray examination of known contacts etc., but on the other hand these cases are detected in an early stage and much more amenable to cure. One of the known causes of spread are the presence of "carrier" cases of tuberculosis, older people who never suffer obviously, but still are infected and infectious.

Soon with the additional help of a vaccine known as B.C.G. all those who show susceptibility by a skin test and are therefore at risk may be protected by injections of this B.C.G. vaccine and tuberculosis will be rooted out eventually.



Diphtheria has been completely under control since 1944 and should continue to be so as long as Immunisation is continued.

Scarlet fever is much less virulent than in past years, as is Measles.

Poliomyelitis is the only infectious disease to show an increase of notifications, but a safe and efficient vaccine is now available in increasing amounts which should completely control the disease.

#### General Provision of Health Services.

Hospital treatment is provided for in this area at the Hull Hospitals, at the Westwood Hospital, Beverley, and the General Hospital, Driffield, where there are full facilities for X-Ray and laboratory examination. Hospitals and out-patient clinics for the diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis are included within the Health Service.

Facilities for the detection of bacterial infections, chiefly as concerns food, water, etc., are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, High Street, Hull.

The care of expectant and nursing mothers and their infants, including unmarried mothers and their children, is undertaken by the County Council through clinics and domiciliary midwifery services. Other services provided by the County Council include health visiting; home nursing; home help facilities; arrangements for vaccination and immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tuberculosis; and Ambulance Service.

Accommodation for all persons needing care and attention because of age, infirmity or other circumstances, apart from nursing and medical cases, is provided by the County Council in accordance with their responsibilities under the National Assistance Act, 1948, which also requires them to provide a Welfare Service for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb and other persons permanently handicapped by congenital deformity, illness, injury or such other disability so recognised by the Minister of Health. Regular medical and sick nursing arrangements are undertaken by the Regional Hospital Board.

Action under the provisions of Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, was not required during the year, as it was found possible to admit through voluntary action, any old persons needing care and attention to one of the County Council's Old People's Homes, in co-operation with County Officials.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

##### Weather and Rainfall.

1957 was generally a wet year. April was the best month for dryness, with an average of only 10 wet days and a rainfall of 0.5 inches during the month. May was the next driest with an average of 14 wet days (4.1 inches rainfall) while January and March show an average of 18 wet days had 1.4 inches rainfall.

As in 1946, July, August and September were the wettest months with an average of 3.8, 3.3 and 2.5 inches of rain respectively.







Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria - 1957.

Set out below are details of cases within the area in respect of whom vaccination and immunisation records have been received:-

(a) Number of person vaccinated or re-vaccinated during 1957.

	Age at Date of Vaccination					Totals
	Under 1	1 year	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	
Number Vaccinated	40	1	2	3	10	56
Number re-vaccinated	-	-	1	1	15	17

(b) Number of children at 31st December,1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date. (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1943.

Age at 31.12.57 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1957	1 1956	2 1955	3 1954	4 1953	5 - 9 1948-1952	10 - 14 1943-1947	Total under 15
Number immunised (Whether primary or booster):-								
1953 - 1957	14	55	42	40	48	283	135	619
1943 - 1952	-	-	-	-	-	102	265	367
Totals	14	55	42	40	48	387	400	986

(c) Number of children immunised during the year ended 31st December, 1957,  
(Figures also included in (b) above.)

Under 5	5 - 14	Total	Boosters
55	18	73	57

The Registrar General has not been able to give the estimated mid-1957 population in the age group 0 to 14 years for the County Districts. The figures are available only for the whole County.



Summary - 1957.

	1957			1956	1955.
	Males	Females	Total		
Births					
Legitimate	33	35	68	66	63
Illegitimate	2	1	3	6	1
Totals	35	36	71	72	64
Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population			14.25	14.4	12.82
Illegitimate Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population			0.6	1.2	
Still Births					
Legitimate	1	1	2		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population			0.4		
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births			28.2		
Deaths	39	37	76	75	92
Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population			15.26	15.0	18.4
Infant Mortality					
Legitimate	2	1	3	1	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate					
Per 1,000 Live Births			42.2	13.9	47.0
Per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births			44.0	15.1	47.3
Per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Measles			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis			Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality, Pregnancy, Abortion.			1	Nil	Nil





Deaths.

Code No:	Disease	No:	Death Rate per 1,000 popl:			% of total deaths	
			1957	1956	1955	1957 (76)	1956 (75)
1	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	0.2	Nil	Nil
2	Non-Pulm: Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
4/8	Notifiable Diseases excluding Tuberculosis and Pneumonia	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
18/28	Heart Disease	19	3.8	3.8	3.8	25.0	25.0
21	Circulatory Disease	1	0.2	1.0	0.8	1.3	6.6
17	Cerebral Haemorrhage	5	1.0	2.6	4.0	6.5	17.3
24/25	Bronchitis and Respiratory Disease	2	0.4	0.6	0.4	2.6	4.0
23	Pneumonia	1	0.2	0.4	0.6	1.3	2.6
10/14	Cancer	18	3.6	3.0	3.0	23.4	20.0
	All other causes	30	6.0	3.6	5.6	39.9	24.0
	TOTAL	76	15.26	15.0	18.4	100.0	100.0

General Statistics.

Average height above Sea Level ..... 15 feet  
Area of the Urban District ..... 882 acres.  
Population, Mid 1957, Estimated ..... 4,980  
Houses, Number occupied 31/12/57 ..... 1,649  
Rateable Value (1st April, 1958) ..... £53,021  
Product of a Penny Rate ..... £210

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,  
F. R. CRIPPS, M.D., D.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

